

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 039074 TOSEC 020176
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 SSO-00 CCO-00 ISO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY: S/S-O:BPÉRITO

APPROVED BY: S/S-O:BPÉRITO

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY AIRCRAFT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 039074 TOSEC 020176

FOLLOWING IS REPEAT CAIRO 3081, SENT SECRETARY'S PARTY,
SECSTATE, INFO USIA 21 FEB:

QUOTE S E C R E T CAIRO 3081

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PROF, PROP, EG, UR, US

SUBJECT: APPARENT SOVIET DISINFORMATION EFFORT IN EGYPT AGAINST U.S.

REF: A. STATE 39056 B. CAIRO 2876

1. WHILE EMBASSY DOES NOT WANT TO OVER-REACT TO PUBLICATION
USIS FORGERY NEITHER DO WE WANT TO RISK UNDERESTIMATING
CREDIBILITY THAT MANY EGYPTIANS WILL GIVE TO ROSE
AL YUSUF STORY. WITH THIS IN MIND EMBASSY DOES NOT BE-
LIEVE PROPOSALS CONTAINED REFTEL (A) ARE SUFFICIENTLY HARD
HITTING TO COUNTER NEGATIVE IMPACT (REPORTED CAIRO 2876)
THAT FORGERY HAS ALREADY HAD AMONG SOME HIGH LEVEL EGYPTIANS.
PUBLICATION IN ROSE AL YUSUF WHICH IS WIDELY READ BY INTELLECU-
TALS AND GOE OFFICIALS, IS LIKELY TO ENHANCE CREDIBILITY OF
FOREGERS. (FIRST SECRETARY OF ASU MUSTAFA KHALIL, WHO HAD EARLIER
RECEIVED COPY OF FORGERY THROUGH MAIL, JUST CALLED AMBASSADOR
AND ASKED WHAT EMBASSY IS GOING TO DO ABOUT ROSE AL YUSUF STORY.

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KHALIL SAID IT IS "VERY DAMAGING" TO U.S. AND RECOMMENDED THAT WE
ISSUE FORCEFUL DENIAL AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE).

2. EMBASSY WOULD LIKE AUTHORIZATION TO ISSUE IMMEDIATELY
FOLLOWING STATEMENT TO PRESS:

"AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN THE LOCAL PRESS HAS COME TO THE ATTEN-

TION OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY PURPORTING TO BE A REPORT OF A DISCUSSION IN DETROIT ON MARCH 24, 1976, CONCERNING THE SITUATION IN EGYPT. THE REPORT FURTHER ALLEGES THAT MR. EDWIN YEO, WHO WAS AN UNDER SECRETARY OF TREASURY AT THAT TIME, REPRESENTED THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IN THIS MEETING. THE ROSE AL YUSUF STORY IS A TOTAL FABRICATION".

"MR. YEO HAS STATED THAT DURING HIS TENURE AS UNDER SECRETARY OF THE TRASURY FOR MONETARY AFFAIRS FROM AUGUST 1975 TO JANUARY 1977, HE NEVER MADE A SPEECH ON EGYPT BEFORE ANY GROUP. MR. YEO HAS FURTHER NOTED THAT ON MARCH 24, 1976, HE WAS IN FACT IN WASHINGTON, D.C. THE EMBASSY HAS A COPY OF THE ALLEGED DOUCMENT ON WHICH ROSE AL YUSUF BASED ITS STORY. AN EXAMINATION OF THIS DOCUMENT SHOWS IT TO BE AN OBVIOUS AND CLUMSY FORGERY. THE DOCUMENT IS A PURPORTED USIS ATHENS PRESS RELEASE DATED APRIL 26, 1976, WHICH CLAIMS TO GIVE THE TEXT OF A SPEECH BY THE THEN TREASURY UNDER SECREARY EDWIN YEO BEFORE THE DETROIT ECONOMIC CLUB ON MARCH 24, 1976. MR. YEO HAS STATED THAT HE HAS NEVER SPOKEN BEFORE THE DETORIT ECONOMIC CLUB ON ANY SUBJECT. THE FORGED DOCUMENT ALSO CLAIMS THAT MR. YEO ACCOMPANIED SECRETARY SIMON ON HIS MARCH 1976 VISIT TO EGYPT WHEN IN FACT MR. YEO HASNEVER BEEN TO EGYPT. USIS ATHENS DID NOT ISSUE THIS DOCUMENT. THERE IS ADDITIONAL INTRINSIC EVIDENCE THAT THIS IS A CRUDE FOREGERY: FOR EXAMPLE, THE DOCUMENT HAS A "RESTRICTED" STAMP ON ITS TITLE PAGE WHICH NEITHER US S NOR ANY OTHER AGENCY OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT USES. FURTHERMORE, USIS ATEHSN WOULD NOT ISSUE DOCUMENTS CONCERNING U.S.-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS. IN ADDITION, THE CONTENT, FORMAT, AND CURIOUS

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METHOD OF DISTRIBUTION (BY MAIL FROM ATHENS) ALL ATTEST TO THE QUESTIONABLE ORIGIN OF THE DOCUMENT. IT IS CLEARLY INTENDED TO POISON U.S.-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS, AND IT IS IN OBVIOUS CONTRADICTION TO THE WELL KNOWN AND EXTENSIVE SUPPORT WHICH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS PROVIDING TO THE GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT SADAT, MOST RECENTLY BY THE \$500 MILLION ASSISTANCE PACKAGE ANNOUNCED ON FEBRUARY 1977. U.S. ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS HAS TOTALLED AMOST \$2 BILLION AND IS THE LARGEST SINGLE U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN THE WORLD.

END QUOTE

3. OUR OBJECTIVES IS TO ISSUE ABOVE RELEASE TODAY IN TIME FOR THREE MAJOR DAILIES AND MENA TO CARRY IT IN FEB 22 PAPERS. IN ORDER TO DO SO WE WILL NEED RESPONSE BY ABOUT 1700 GMT. EILTS UNQUOTE. HARTMAN

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NNN

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